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Principal
Mr J Kirby

Date: 2nd November 2026

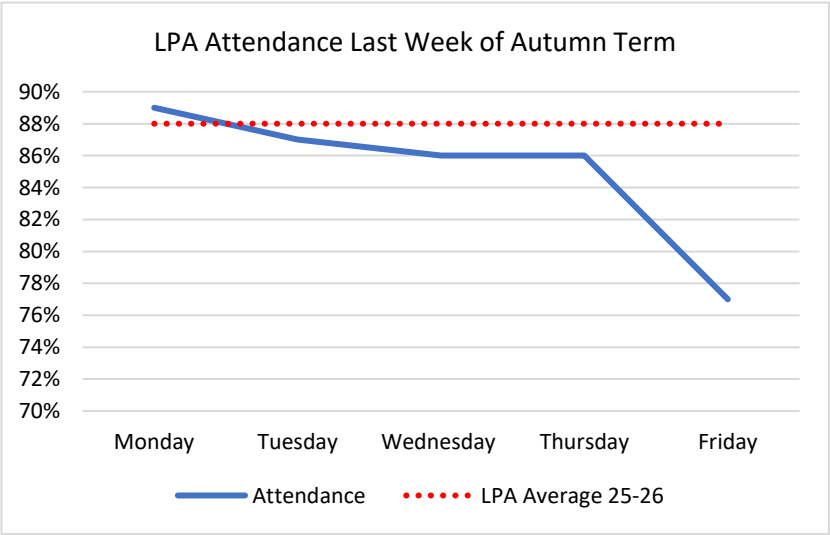
Re: Last Day of Autumn Term

Dear Families

It's been fantastic to welcome back our students after half term, rested and ready for another successful half term.

As you will know, one of our central priorities this year is attendance, and in recent years we have found the last week before we break up for Christmas challenging in this regard. We teach right to the end here at Lodge Park, with every lesson still planned and delivered as if it was first one of the year. Every moment in those lessons matter.

Alongside those lessons though, we have a number of really lovely activities that happen at Lodge Park: Christmas jumper days, House Parties and of course the Santa Run. All of these take place before the final day of term, where we traditionally close school after lunch.



This way of doing things in previous years though has made attendance on the last day a huge problem. Last year, nearly 1 in 4 students did not attend on the last day of school, with a 7% drop in attendance from the Thursday to the Friday.

Last year, 166 students did not attend the last day of term. I believe this poor attendance is driven by the fact it is not considered a 'normal' day after all of these festive events and then having an early finish – but every moment still matters on that final day.

Therefore, this year the Christmas activities (Santa Run, House Parties, Christmas Jumper day) will all take place on the final Friday (18th December) and the day will be a full day, finishing at the usual time of 3:10pm. School then reopens for students on Tuesday 5th January 2027.

Thank you for your ongoing support with regards to your child's attendance to school. We want to see all our students in school every day, and I hope this structural change to our final week will ensure that they're in school right to the end of term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Kirby
Principal